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 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
 UTS8288  
 OO RUEHC  
 DE RUEHBL #7809 1961135  
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 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1686  
 INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 0475  
 RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0453  
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 0626  
 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 0600  
 RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 0457  
 RUEHRH/USELO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 0412  
 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 0614  
 RUENND/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE  
 RUEFMHA/CTF SIX ONE IMMEDIATE  
 RUEFMKA/CTF SIX TWO IMMEDIATE  
 BT

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: ARMED CLASH IN WEST BEIRUT

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AN ARMED CLASH BEGAN ABOUT 1000L JULY 15 IN THE WADI  
 ABU JAMIL AREA OF WEST BEIRUT, JUST EAST OF THE HOLIDAY  
 INN. A SENIOR LEBANESE ARMY (LAF) SOURCE HAS TOLD OUR  
 STAFF THAT THE CLASH BEGAN WHEN THE INTERNAL SECURITY

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FORCES (ISF) ATTEMPTED TO EVICT SOME SHI'A SQUATTERS FROM A BUILDING IN THIS QUARTER. THE SQUATTERS RESISTED AND THE ISF ASKED THE LAF FOR ASSISTANCE. WHEN THE LAF ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AN RPG WAS FIRED AT THEM, DAMAGING AN APC AND INJURING SOME LAF SOLDIERS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL RADIO BROADCASTS, THE LAF THEN SEALED OFF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CLOSED THE FUAD SHIHAB HIGHWAY LINKING EAST AND WEST BEIRUT. PHALANGIST VOICE OF LEBANON (VOL) ALSO REPORTED THAT ARMED SHI'A DEMONSTRATED IN PROTEST OF THIS INCIDENT IN THE MUSAYTABAH QUARTER, WHICH IS LOCATED IN WEST BEIRUT A MILE SOUTH OF THE ORIGINAL INCIDENT. DATT REPORTS THAT LAF TROOPS ARE DEPLOYED AND STREETS ARE EMPTY IN THAT AREA.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE AT THIS POINT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CLASH. AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAVE HEARD THE SOUND OF SHOOTING IN THE WADI ABU JAMIL AREA. AS OF THE TIME THIS WAS DRAFTED, THE CLASH APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING. AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN WARNED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE AREAS IN WHICH THE FIGHTING AND DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE OCCURRED. PUGH

END OF MESSAGE

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